Department has welcomed the suggestion of putting more check gates.

Air Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

1604. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Madras Calcutta and Bombay are affected by serious air pollution;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the growing pollution; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to eliminate the hazards of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Venicular and industrial emissions are the main causes of pollution in cities. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, has carried out ambient air quality monitoring in ten major cities of India viz. Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Cochin, Madras and Nagpur in collaboration with Central Pollution Control Board. According to the air quality survey, the levels of sulphurdioxide & nitrogen oxides in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay are within the prescribed limits, while the level of suspended particulate matter in these cities are on the higher side, which is due to the natural dusty conditions and increasing density of vehicular traffic.

(c) The steps taken to eliminate the hazards of pollution in these cities include the following:—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken againt the defaulting units.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the Stae Governments to comply with the effluents/ emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and phospho-gypsum.

(vii) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(viii) A draft notification notifying the mass emission standards for 1995 and indicative standards for 2000 for all vehicles has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ix) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel in Delhi and Bombay. This will arrest the increasing trend of nitorgen oxide in these cities.

Scheme to Chalk out Environmental Audit in Industries

1605. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been chalked out for conducting environmental audit in selected industries belonging to heavily polluting industrial